

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5267
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR IN CH
SUBJECT: GOI REJECTS PRC CHARGES OF SUPPORT FOR TIBETANS AND
INTERFERENCE IN CHINESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

REF: DELHI A-148

1. THE GOI AUGUST 6 REJECTED CHINESE ALLEGATIONS THAT
RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE DALAI LAMA AND INDIAN LEADERS
CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
AT A PRESS BRIEFING APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY AN NCNA ARTICLE
ACCUSING THE GOI OF CONNIVING WITH THE A"ANTI-NATIONAL
ACTIVITIES OF THE TIBETAN REBEL BANDITS," AND OFFICIAL
SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED THAT PRC CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LI
HSING-FU HAD PROTESTED TO THE MEA AUGUST 4 ABOUT
MEETING S THE DALAI LAMA HELD JULY 22 WITH PRIME MINISTER
MORARJI DESAI, DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM, AND
ACTING PRESIDENT JATTI (REFAIR). HE ALSO REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF THE ASIAN DIVISION
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PEKING SUMMONED INDIAN
AMBASSADOR NARAYAN TO LODGE A SIMILAR PROTEST. THE
SPOKESMAN SAID, "WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY CHARGE OF
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CONNIVING AT THE SO-CALLE ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES
OF TIBETANS AND THIS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE
CHINESE SIDE."

2. THE SPOKESMAN IS SAID TO HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THE
DALAI LAMA, ENROUTE TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH INDIA, HAD
STOPPED IN DELHI TO PAY COURTESY CALLS ON THE LEADERS

OF THE GOI; THERE WAS NO POLITICAL MOTIVE IN THE MEETINGS. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INDIA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY REGARDING THE TIBETAN QUESTION WAS WELL KNOWN AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF GIVING ANY SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF REFUGEES IN INDIA DIRECTED AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER A. B. VAJPAYEE HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE PRC PROTESTS WHEN HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS IN PARLIAMENT AUGUST 5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOI WAS CONTINUOUSLY TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC BUT THAT "SOME INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM CHINA" ALSO. HE REVIEWED THE STATUS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, POINTING TO AGREEMENTS SIGNED AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CANTON FAIR AND TO THE FACT THAT INDIAN SHIPS WERE NOW CALLING AT CHINESE PORTS. EXCHANGES IN HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE WERE CONTINUING, HE SAID, AND ALTHOUGH NO NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEGUN ON EXCHANGING SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL, A CHINESE DELEGATION WOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEDIATRICS IN DELHI IN OCTOBER. AN INDIAN JOURNALIST VISITED CHINA IN JUNE AND JULY AND MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS, HE SAID, AND CHINESE JOURNALISTS WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT INDIA. VAJPAYEE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS THAT PRC LEADERS HAD REACTED ADVERSELY TO MMORARJI DESAI'S STATEMENT THAT THE INITIATIVE IN IMPROVING RELATIONS RESTED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRC BECAUSE IT STILL OCCUPIED INDIAN TERRITORY. ASKED ABOUT ANOTHER PRESS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT TITO DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING WOULD TRY TO IMPROVE SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, VAJPAYEE REPLIED THAT SO FAR AS INDIA KNEW, TITO WAS NOT MEDIATING BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESS FEATURED THE OFFICIAL DENIAL AND QUOTED FROM THE NCNA ARTICLE.; THE "TIMES OF INDIA" DESCRIBED "INFORMED CIRCLES" IN DELHI AS SURPRISED BY THE "INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE AND IRRELEVANT FACTS" IN THE NCNA ARTICLE AND CONSIDERED IT "STRIDENTLY OUT OF TUNE WITH THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION." THE INDIAN EXPRESS, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THE GOI WAS NOT ALARMED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SHIFT IN PRC POLICY SINCE VAJPAYEE'S REMARKS TO PARLIAMENT STRESSED CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. G.K. REDDY IN "THE HINDU" NOTED THAT THE PRC MADE SUCH PROTESTS EVERY TIME THE DALAI LAMA VISITED DELHI, ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT ALWAYS PUBLICIZE THEM. MOST NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED AN AFP REPORT WHICH SAID DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN PEKING CONSIDERED "PEKING'S WARNING AS FIRM BUT MODERATE" AND INDICTIVE OF PEKING'S DESIRE TO BE "HEARD

AT NEW DELHI WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE SLOW IMPROVEMENT"
IN RELATIONS.

5. THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ABOUT PRESIDENT TITO
WAS PROMPTED BY AN ARTICLE BY G. K. REDDY AUGUST 2 IN WHICH
REDDY SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY TRYING TO BRING
ABOUT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS IN THE
LARGER INTEREST OF THE THIRD WORLD AND THAT TITO WOULD BE ABLE
TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE "NEW TRINITY IN PEKING" IS REALLY
INTERESTED IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS. REDDY ALSO NOTED
THAT THE " CHINA EXPERTS IN DELHI" CONSIDERED THAT THE
PRC WAS UNLIKELY TO EMBARK ON ANY MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY
INITIATIVE, WHETHER IN RELATIONS TO INDIA OR THE USSR,
UNTIL AFTER THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS NEXT YEAR.
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GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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